

# **BRAAM SETTLEMENT MONITORING REPORT #2**

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2006**

Covers the performance period ending June 30, 2006





## ***Braam Oversight Panel***

The Braam Oversight Panel was created in 2004 to oversee a Settlement regarding Washington State's foster care system. The Settlement was reached after a six-year period of litigation. The named Plaintiff, Jessica Braam, is an adult who lived in 34 foster homes by the time the suit was filed in 1998. The Settlement is intended to improve the conditions and treatment of children in the custody of the state's Division of Children and Family Services.

The Panel was created to monitor improvements in selected services and ensure quality standards are met over the next seven years. This independent Panel was mutually selected by the parties (the Plaintiffs who filed the lawsuit and the state of Washington). The Panel, working in collaboration with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and with substantial input from the Plaintiffs and other stakeholders, developed an Implementation Plan for the six areas specified in the Settlement. This document is the second monitoring report on the Settlement and covers the period ending June 30, 2006.

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## BACKGROUND

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The Braam Oversight Panel was created in 2004 to oversee a Settlement regarding Washington State's foster care system. The Settlement was reached after a six-year period of litigation between the state of Washington and Plaintiffs' attorneys. The lead named Plaintiff, Jessica Braam, is an adult who lived in 34 foster homes by the time the suit was filed in 1998.

The goal of the Settlement is to improve the "conditions and treatment of children in the custody of the state's Division of Children and Family Services." In collaboration with Washington's Department of Social and Health Services (the Department), and with substantial input from Plaintiffs and other stakeholders, the independent Panel has responsibility to develop outcomes, benchmarks, and action steps, and to monitor compliance. The Settlement covers six areas:

- Placement stability
- Mental health services
- Foster parent training and information
- Unsafe or inappropriate placements
- Sibling separation
- Services to adolescents

The Settlement is a 16-page document with 14 goals. The Settlement incorporated over 50 provisions directly from the Department's comprehensive reform plan—Kids Come First II. This restructuring plan for children's services is described by the Department as an "aggressive effort to make long-lasting changes in the child welfare field [that] will further protect children and better address their medical and emotional needs."<sup>1</sup>

To a significant extent, the Settlement directs the Department to perform activities required under Washington State law. Since 1987, 30 laws have been passed directing policies and procedures included in the Settlement.

The Panel provided an Implementation Plan in February 2006<sup>2</sup> that defines the specific and enforceable agreements required by the Settlement. A Monitoring Report issued by the Panel in March 2006 reviews performance under the Settlement from 7/31/04 through 12/31/05.<sup>3</sup> Subsequently, pursuant to the Settlement, the Department proposed Compliance Plans for action steps that had been deemed incomplete by the Panel in the first Monitoring Report. The Panel issued a decision approving most of these Compliance Plans on September 5, 2006.

This Monitoring Report covers the period of 1/1/06 through 6/30/06 and establishes baseline data for many benchmarks specified in the Implementation Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> [www1.dshs.wa.gov/geninfo/cws.html](http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/geninfo/cws.html)

<sup>2</sup> Braam Panel (2006, February). *Braam Settlement Implementation Plan*. Olympia, WA: Braam Panel. Available at [www.braampanel.org](http://www.braampanel.org)

<sup>3</sup> Braam Panel (2006, March). *Braam Settlement Monitoring Report*. Olympia, WA: Braam Panel. Available at [www.braampanel.org](http://www.braampanel.org)

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## OVERVIEW

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The Braam Oversight Panel was created in 2004 to oversee a settlement agreement (Settlement) regarding Washington State’s foster care system. The Settlement was reached after a six-year period of litigation. The parties to the Settlement include the Plaintiffs,<sup>4</sup> who filed the lawsuit, and the State of Washington, respondents to the lawsuit.

The final Settlement created an independent oversight panel (the “Panel”) that was mutually selected by the parties. The members include:

- A former child welfare administrator;
- A child welfare researcher;
- An expert in children’s mental health; and
- Two additional members.

To ensure the Panel’s independence, its members and staff are not funded by the state.<sup>5</sup>

The Settlement directed the Panel to establish professional standards, outcomes, benchmarks, and action steps to improve the treatment of, and conditions for, children in the custody of DCFS, and to monitor the Department’s performance under this Settlement (Settlement, page 1). The intent of the Settlement, and the Panel’s work, is summarized on the first page of the Settlement:

“The parties enter into this Agreement with the recognition that both parties and their counsel have committed to enter into specific, measurable, and enforceable agreements with the goal of improving the conditions and treatment of children in the custody of the Division of Children and Family Services.”

Over 50 provisions from the Department’s comprehensive reform plan for children’s services—Kids Come First II—were incorporated directly into the Settlement. This plan assimilates the state’s response to the Settlement, the Federal Child and Family Services Review, and the Gomez Fatality Review. The Department described the plan as a “bold long-term roadmap for creating and sustaining an improved child welfare system.”<sup>6</sup>

### Settlement Definitions

The Settlement defines the Plaintiff class as follows:

- **“Child” or “Children” in foster care** means children in the custody of DCFS. For the outcomes, benchmarks, and actions steps, this term refers to children in the Plaintiff Class, defined as all children in the custody of DCFS who are now or in the future will be placed by DCFS in three or more placements and those children in the custody of DCFS who are at risk of three or more placements. The Panel interprets this definition to include all children in the custody of DCFS.

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<sup>4</sup> The Plaintiffs’ attorneys include Tim Farris, a Bellingham lawyer who initiated the case, Casey Trupin with Columbia Legal Services, and William Grimm with the National Center for Youth Law.

<sup>5</sup> Casey Family Programs has funded the Panel’s activities and staffing.

<sup>6</sup> [http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ca/imp\\_complIntro.pdf](http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ca/imp_complIntro.pdf)

- **“Department”** means the Department of Social and Health Services. In terms of responsibilities related to the Settlement, the most relevant divisions are the Children’s Administration and Health and Recovery Services (including the Division of Mental Health and the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse).

The Settlement established goals in six areas<sup>7</sup>:

- **Placement Stability:** Every child will have a safe and stable placement with a caregiver capable of meeting the child’s needs.
- **Mental Health:** Children shall have initial physical and mental health screenings within 30 days of entry into care. The child’s case plan will include plans to meet their special needs. Children shall receive timely, accessible, individualized, and appropriate mental health assessments and treatment by qualified mental health providers. Continuity of treatment providers will be maintained.
- **Foster Parent Training and Information:** Caregivers shall be adequately trained, supported, and informed about children in their care. The Department shall provide accessible pre-service and in-service training to all caregivers sufficient to meet the caregiving needs of children in placement.
- **Unsafe/Inappropriate Placements:** All children shall be placed in safe placements. The state shall continue to meet or exceed the federal standard for out-of-home care.
- **Sibling Separation:** Placement of siblings together is presumed to be in the children’s best interest unless there is a reasonable basis to conclude that the health, safety, or welfare of a child is put in jeopardy by the placement. Frequent and meaningful contact between siblings in foster care who are not placed together and those who remain at home should occur unless not in child’s best interest.
- **Services to Adolescents:** Improve the quality and accessibility of services to adolescents. Improve the educational achievements of these adolescents and better prepare them to live independently. Reduce the number of adolescents on runaway status from foster care.

## Panel Work Products

The Panel issues the following types of documents:

- **Implementation Plan**<sup>8</sup> defining the specific and enforceable performances required by the Settlement; and
- **Monitoring (Progress) Reports** measuring progress toward the Settlement goals, outcomes, benchmarks, and action steps for each six-month period.<sup>9</sup>
- **Decisions on Compliance Plans** approving or rejecting plans developed by the Department to achieve compliance with Action Steps, Outcomes or Benchmarks that the Panel has determined have not been met.

**Implementation Plan.** An implementation plan was issued in February 2006.

**Monitoring Reports.** The Panel is to publish progress reports every six months. The first of these reports, covering the period of 7/24/04 to 12/31/05, was issued in March 2006. This report covers the period 1/1/06 to 6/30/06 and establishes baseline data for many benchmarks specified in the Implementation Plan.

<sup>7</sup> The Final Settlement is available on the Braam Oversight Panel website: [www.braampanel.org](http://www.braampanel.org).

<sup>8</sup> Previously titled “Design and Specifications Report.”

<sup>9</sup> The Implementation Plan is released simultaneously to the parties and the public. In the case of Monitoring Reports, the parties have agreed that CA and the plaintiffs will receive preliminary reports and be given time to comment before the documents are released to the public. Panel reports released for public distribution will be posted on the website; individuals and organizations can sign up to receive email alerts when new material is posted.



**Compliance Plan Decisions.** If the Panel makes a finding that the Department has not implemented an Action Step or has failed to reach benchmarks required under the Implementation Plan, the Department may propose a compliance plan. The Department proposed a Compliance Plan in May 2006 in response to the Panel's first Monitoring Report. The Panel rejected this Compliance Plan on June 22, 2006. The Department submitted a revised Compliance Plan on July 14, 2006; the Panel issued a Decision on the Revised Compliance Plan on September 5, 2006 approving most of these Compliance Plans.

# SUMMARY FINDINGS

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## Approach

This monitoring report covers performance for the period of January 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006.

Two types of information are provided:

- *Status report on action steps*- This report summarizes progress with respect to action steps that were expected to have been fully or partially implemented through June 2006. This includes action steps designated in the Settlement Agreement (most of which were incorporated from Kids Come First II<sup>10</sup>) as well as additional action steps from the Panel's Implementation Plan.

Part I of this document is the Panel's assessment of progress on these action steps, presented in a matrix format starting on page 9. The primary sources for this portion of the report are documents from the Department, including an update report summarizing progress and other written material (policies, plans, etc.). The Panel used the "comments" section of the matrix to provide further information on progress to date. Some action steps were assessed as complete through this performance period, but include some items with future completion dates. These items were noted with dotted lines.

- *Status report on baseline data for outcomes/ benchmarks*- The Panel's Implementation Plan identified benchmarks setting interim and final targets with respect to the Department's progress toward the goals and outcomes identified in the Settlement. Because data regarding current performance or outcomes was not available, the Panel required the Department to provide needed data by certain dates. The Panel will use these data to set current performance baselines. This report provides baseline data in many areas as required in the Panel's Implementation Plan.

The report on baseline data is covered in Part II of this document, beginning on page 39. This part of the document references two documents in appendices that were provided by the Department. *Children's Administration Braam Benchmark Development* summarizes which data measures are currently available, and provides explanations of how data are being obtained and when reports will be provided for measures for which baseline data are not yet available. *Braam Benchmark Baseline Report* provides baselines and reports in all areas in which they are available.

Sources of these reports are administrative data from the DSHS Children's Administration. Data sources for future reports will also include administrative data from other state agencies, sample case reviews, and surveys. Members of the Panel as well as research staff from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy have worked extensively with the Department to reach agreement on data definitions and to provide technical assistance on development of these reports.

## Detailed Status of Action Steps

The Panel has categorized the status of action steps as follows (the numbers in parenthesis indicate the implementation status by these categories):

- ✓ Complete (19)
- ✓ Complete through performance period<sup>11</sup> (5)

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<sup>10</sup> Kids Come First II is a restructuring plan for children's services described by the Department as an "aggressive effort to make long-lasting changes in the child welfare field [that] will further protect children and better address their medical and emotional needs." See: <[www1.dshs.wa.gov/geninfo/cws.html](http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/geninfo/cws.html)>.

<sup>11</sup> Action steps with some items due before and others after June 30, 2006 were assessed as "complete through performance period." For example, see action step 1(c)(3) on page 11.

- ✓ Not yet due (2)
- ✓ Incomplete: Compliance Plan for this step approved<sup>12</sup> (11)
- ✓ Incomplete: Compliance Plan for this step not approved (3)
- ✓ Incomplete: Compliance Plan for this step will be due in 30 days<sup>13</sup> (12)
- ✓ Decision on Proposed Consolidation of Action Steps Pending (8 )

*Summary of the Panel's findings on the Action Steps by area of the settlement agreement*

	Placement Stability	Mental Health	Foster Parent Training	Unsafe/ Inappropriate Placements	Sibling Separation	Adolescents	total
Complete	7	1	3		2	6	19
Complete through performance period	1	2	1			1	5
Not yet due	1			1			2
Incomplete: Compliance Plan for this step approved	2	2	4		1	2	11
Incomplete: Compliance Plan for this step not approved	2			1			3
Incomplete: Compliance Plan for this step will be due in 30 days		4		2		6	12
Decision on consolidation pending			3		4	1	8
<i>Total</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>60</i>

## Detailed Status of Baseline Data for Outcomes and Benchmarks

Baseline data is provided in the appendix for 15 outcomes/ benchmarks. Sources of these reports are administrative data from the DSHS Children's Administration. Data sources for future reports will also include administrative data from other state agencies, sample case reviews, and surveys. In these areas, baseline data are not included here but will be available in future Monitoring Reports. Information on the availability of data is found in the appendix (Children's Administration Braam Benchmark Development), and can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ Data are included in report (15)
- ✓ Data will be gathered through case review and provided in December 2006 for the February 2007 Monitoring Report (8)
- ✓ Data will be collected through foster parent survey and will be provided in June 2007 for the August 2007 Monitoring Report (5)
- ✓ Data are not yet due (1)
- ✓ New sources of data are being developed; baselines will be provided in June 2007 for the August 2007 Monitoring Report (21)

<sup>12</sup> Pursuant to the Settlement, the Department proposed Compliance Plans for action steps that had been deemed incomplete by the Panel after the first Monitoring Report. The Panel has approved these Compliance Plans for most action steps. More information can be found in "Panel Decisions on Children's Administration Revised Compliance Plan," [www.braampanel.org](http://www.braampanel.org).

<sup>13</sup> This category includes action steps found to be incomplete in this Monitoring Report. Pursuant to the Settlement, the Department has 30 days to submit proposed plans to achieve compliance with these steps. Please note that action steps are categorized as incomplete whenever any substeps that were due have been determined not to have been implemented, even if some portions of the action step have been completed. The comments section in the matrix detailing decisions on action steps indicates portions of the step that have been completed.

*Summary of data availability by area of the settlement agreement*

	Placement Stability	Mental Health	Foster Parent Training	Unsafe/ Inappropriate Placements	Sibling Separation	Adolescents	<i>total</i>
Included in report	4	6			1	3	<i>14</i>
Case review	2	2		2	1	1	8
Foster parent survey			4	1			5
Not yet due		1					<i>1</i>
New data source being developed		13	1	3		5	22
<i>Total</i>	6	22	5	6	2	9	<i>50</i>

The Panel is reviewing the complex baseline data provided by the Department. Reports are presented in the format they were submitted by the Department, and the Panel has not provided additional interpretation in this report.

### **Format of this Report**

The identifying numbers for action steps have varied depending on their location in particular documents: Kids Come First, the Settlement, or the Implementation Plan. To reduce confusion, this report does not create a new number for each item; rather, it uses the order from the Settlement and notes the Settlement reference number. Some action items were added in the Implementation Plan; those that were due during the January- June 2006 period have been included here at the end of each section.

In the center column of the matrix on action steps, the status of the action step is noted, along with a parenthetical reference to the report in which the Panel made this finding. For example, if an action step was declared complete in the Panel's first monitoring report, the step is shown as *Complete (as per first Monitoring Report, March 28, 2006)*. Rows describing action steps that have been declared complete are shaded gray in the table.

### **Next Report**

The Panel's next monitoring report will be issued in February 2007. This report will cover action steps due by December 31, 2006 and will provide additional baseline data. Additionally, the February report will reassess items identified as incomplete in this report, provide updates on action steps under approved compliance plans, and update the Panel's findings based on additional documentation that may be received from the Department.

## **PART I: STATUS REPORT ON ACTION STEPS**

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The following matrix reports on the status of all Action Steps that were expected to have been fully or partially implemented through June 2006.

Area/Action Step	Status	Comments
<b>Placement Stability</b>		
<p><b>RFP for statewide foster parent recruitment</b></p> <p>KCF II 24.1.1</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 1(c)(1) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>Implement the RFP for providing statewide foster parent recruitment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete regional recruitment needs assessments 8/04</li> <li>Develop recruitment performance expectations for contracts 8/04</li> <li>Finalize Recruitment and Retention RFP (<i>includes regional, minority, sibling groups, adolescents and children with special needs</i>) 9/04</li> <li>Issue Recruitment and Retention RFP 9/04</li> <li>Review and select proposals 11/04</li> <li>Concurrently develop implementation and communication plans 11/04</li> <li>Begin implementation of 18 month regional/statewide contracted recruitment &amp; retention services contracts 1/05</li> <li>Orientation of staff and caregivers to regional/statewide contracted support services (first stage implementation) 1/05</li> <li>Review every six months 7/05</li> </ol>	<p><b>Complete</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	<p>Decision pending regarding proposal to consolidate with 5 (c) 7.</p>
<p><b>Require multi-disciplinary case staffings for children in four or more placements</b></p> <p>KCF II 6.1.1*</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 1(c)(2) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>Require multi-disciplinary case staffings for children who have been in three or more placements to build an intensive case plan to improve placement stability.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In collaboration with Tribes, LICWACS, and/or Indian Organizations, utilize CAMIS data on children in placement, length of stay and age of children, to develop a plan of implementation for review and approval of the Braam Panel (1/05)</li> <li>Braam Panel reviews and approves final plan (3/05)</li> <li>Communicate timeframes and guidelines to all social workers, supervisors and managers (5/05)</li> <li>Begin Phase I of the plan (conducting staffings for children in five or more placements) (5/05)</li> <li>Complete Phase I (5/06)</li> <li>Begin Phase II of the plan (conducting staffings for children in four or more placements) (5/06)</li> <li>Complete Phase II (5/07)</li> <li>Begin Phase III of the plan (conducting staffings for children on an ongoing basis for children in three or more placements) (5/07)</li> </ol> <p>* The current version of this section in KCF II is different than in the version of KCF II in existence at the time of the Settlement (5/31/2004).</p>	<p><b>Compliance Plan approved</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	
<p><b>Develop a plan for Panel review and approval, with input from the Plaintiffs to provide multidisciplinary and/or case staffings for children in three or more placements. (Plan developed by 1/15/05.)</b></p> <p><b><i>Action Step 1(c)(14)</i></b></p>	<p><b>Complete</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	

Area/Action Step	Status	Comments
<p><b>Implement strategies to increase appropriate matching between children and caregivers at time of initial placement</b></p> <p>KCF II 6.2.2 (originally 6.2.4)</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 1(c)(3) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>Implement strategies to increase appropriate matching between children and caregivers at the time of initial placement (e.g., increase completion rate of Pre-Passports within required timeframes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish workgroup to develop strategies, including a process for how to track appropriate matching at the initial placement (12/04)</li> <li>b. CA Management reviews and approves strategies (5/05)</li> <li>c. Make necessary policy changes to support strategy implementation (8/05)</li> <li>d. Provide education/training to staff to support implementation of strategies (11/05)</li> <li>e. Begin implementation of strategies (12/05)</li> <li>f. Review baseline for placement stability following a completed Pre-Passport, and set performance measure (6/06)</li> <li>g. Initiate quarterly reporting to the field (12/06)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Complete through the performance period ending 6/30/06.</b> (Second Monitoring Report, September 20, 2006)</p>	
<p><b>Implement strategies to increase appropriate matching between children and caregivers for children who need to be replaced (beginning by December 2006 and fully implemented by December 2008).</b></p> <p><b><i>Action Step 1(c)(13) in Settlement</i></b></p>	<p><b>Not yet due</b></p>	<p>Baseline data being developed through case review. Panel agrees to extend deadline for (f) to December 2006, consistent with expected delivery date of case review data. Substep (g) not yet due.</p>

Area/Action Step	Status	Comments
<p><b>Develop and implement policy to provide emergency respite to licensed foster care and relative caregivers to prevent disruption</b></p> <p>KCF II 6.1.3 (originally 6.1.2(a))</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 1(c)(4) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>Provide respite to resource families to support placements at risk of disruption and provide appropriate access to respite care for caregivers requesting and needing this service, to include in-home respite care for licensed foster parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Review and revise existing respite policy to provide immediate respite to resource families where placement is at risk of disruption (12/04)</li> <li>c. Complete assessment of regional needs (4/05)</li> <li>d. Develop regional respite capacity to support respite policy (7/05)</li> <li>e. Communicate revised respite policy to social workers, supervisors and resource families (8/05)</li> <li>f. Revise academy training program and foster parent pre-service training program to reflect revised respite policy (9/05)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Compliance Plan not approved by the Panel</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	<p>The following comments were included in the Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006</p> <p>The following changes are necessary in order for the Compliance Plan to be considered acceptable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Language such as "the necessity and continuation of such services are determined by the social worker based on availability of funds and/or an assessment of the need of the child" and "respite services are provided subject to available funding" may serve as a deterrent for workers, supervisors and administrators reviewing respite requests. Language suggesting that decisions about emergency respite will be limited based on fiscal constraints should be removed.</li> <li>- Policies and procedures should be revised to <i>encourage</i> the use of respite in emergencies and for prevention of placement disruptions. The Panel believes that respite can be a highly successful and extremely cost-effective strategy for preventing placement disruption.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Complete implementation plan for 2003 legislation to increase educational stability of foster children (HB 1058).</b> Complete and implement agreements with school districts, addressing transportation issues for children transferring schools upon placement or move between placements.</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 1(c)(5) in Settlement</i></b></p>	<p><b>Moved to the Adolescent Services section by Panel.</b></p>	



Area/Action Step	Status	Comments
<p><b>Increase the appropriate use of kinship care</b></p> <p>KCF II 8.3.2, 8.3.3, 21.1.1 (originally 20.1.1-21.1.2)</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 1(c)(6) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>8.3.2 Develop and implement caregiver initial assessment policy to support immediate relative placements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workgroup develops initial assessment tool and policy (12/04)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves appropriate recommendations (2/05)</li> <li>Provide training to social workers and supervisors (3/05-5/05)</li> <li>Revise DLR academy training to reflect policy change (5/05)</li> <li>Implementation statewide (6/05)</li> </ol> <p>8.3.3 Implement relative home study</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workgroup develops initial assessment tool and policy (12/04)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves appropriate recommendations (2/05)</li> <li>Provide training to staff (3/05-5/05)</li> <li>Implementation statewide (6/05)</li> </ol> <p>21.1.1 Develop and implement revised policy framework for kinship care.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish policy workgroup to: (9/04) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop policy providing access to services for non-licensed kinship care providers; and</li> <li>Develop tools (e.g., ancestry chart, genogram) for Kinship care policy, including how it supports Tribal ICWA law requirements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves recommendations (1/05)</li> <li>Make necessary policy changes to support framework. (4/05)</li> <li>Provide training to existing staff on policy framework and tools (5/05)</li> <li>Revise academy curriculum for new social workers to include kinship framework (6/05)</li> <li>Implement policy changes (7/05)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Compliance Plan approved</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	<p>Decision pending regarding proposal to consolidate with 5(c)(2).</p>

Area/Action Step	Status	Comments
<p><b>Revise and implement policy and procedure to provide for the involvement of children and parents in assessments, development of case plans and major decisions (including changes in placement)</b></p> <p>KCF II 13.1.1  <b>Action Step 1(c)(7) in Settlement</b></p> <p>Review and revise policy and procedure regarding when and how service plans are written and updated, the involvement of children and parents and Tribes in assessments, development of case plans for in-home cases and out-of-home cases, and major decisions, to include practice guidelines for engaging children, Tribes and fathers in the process.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish policy workgroup to review current policy and make recommendations for necessary revisions (12/04-4/05)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves of appropriate recommendations (4/05-6/05)</li> <li>Revise academy training and post-academy training on permanency to reflect policy changes (7/05)</li> <li>Provide training to social workers and supervisors on policy and procedure revisions (7/05-9/05)</li> <li>Implement policy revisions (10/05)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Complete</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	
<p><b>Develop and implement annual local office and/or regional, plans for the recruitment and retention of foster homes that specifically assess the need for and availability of placement for children with special needs, and for respite (especially for adolescents).</b></p> <p>KCF II 24.1.3 (incorporated from Braam into KCF II)  <b>Action Step 1(c)(8) in Settlement</b></p> <p>Such plans shall specify the recruitment activities targeted at increasing the number of such homes. The plans shall contain numerical targets for increases each year in the number of homes in the special populations of children listed above, beginning in July 2005 until the target identified in the plans is met.</p>	<p><b>Complete</b> (Second Monitoring Report, September 20, 2006)</p>	
<p><b>Develop a plan by June 30, 2005 for Panel review and approval to reduce caseloads to COA standards.</b></p> <p>KCF II 14.1.8 (incorporated from Braam into KCF II)  <b>Action Step 1(c)(9) in Settlement</b></p> <p>Develop a plan by June 30, 2005 for review and approval by the Braam Panel to reduce caseloads to COA standards</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish workgroup to develop plan and estimate costs/resources required (1/05)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves plan (5/05)</li> <li>Plan submitted to Braam Panel for review (6/05)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Compliance Plan not approved by the Panel</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	<p>The following comments were included in the Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006</p> <p>The following changes are necessary in order for the Compliance Plan to be considered acceptable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contract language should be provided clearly showing that the <b>deliverables</b> expected of the workload study contractor address all required casework activities, including new activities and requirements from Braam.</li> <li>- The timetable for reducing</li> </ul>

Area/Action Step	Status	Comments
		<p>caseloads to COA standards should be based on the schedule for office visits for COA accreditation.</p> <p>The Panel intends to develop a new outcome to monitor caseload size on an office, regional, and statewide basis.</p>
<p><b>Notify child's representative (attorney/GAL/CASA) prior to placement move, except in emergencies.</b> When a move has been made based on an emergency, the child's representative will be notified on the next business day.</p> <p>KCF II 6.1.4 (incorporated from Braam into KCF II)</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 1(c)(10) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>Notify child's representative (attorney/GAL/CASA) prior to placement move, except in emergencies. When a move has been made based on an emergency, the child's representative will be notified on the next business day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop policy regarding notification to GAL/CASA (10/04)</li> <li>• Communicate policy to social workers, supervisors and GAL/CASA of policy requirement (11/04)</li> <li>• Implement policy (12/04)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Complete</b> (as per first Monitoring Report, March 28, 2006)</p>	
<p><b>A history of the child's placements will be reported to the Juvenile Court at each dependency review hearing as part of the child's Individual Safety and Service Plan (ISSP).</b></p> <p>KCF II 6.1.5 (incorporated from Braam into KCF II)</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 1(c)(11) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>Develop policy to require reporting of a child's placement history to the Juvenile Court at each dependency review hearing as part of the child's Individual Safety and Service Plan (ISSP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilizing workgroup from 7.1.6, review and revise ISSP and ISSP guidelines to provide clear history of child's placement (3/05)</li> <li>• Distribute revised ISSP and ISSP guidelines to social workers and supervisors (9/05-12/05)</li> <li>• Implement policy requirement to provide child's placement history to court at each dependency review hearing (1/06)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Complete</b> (Second Monitoring Report, September 20, 2006)</p>	<p>Panel may consider adding a benchmark/ outcome to assess ongoing implementation of policy.</p>
<p><b>Consistent with the outcomes and benchmarks in Section IV.2, develop and begin to implement pilot programs in at least 3 sites providing therapeutic foster care using effective, evidence-based models of care for children with emotional and behavioral challenges.</b> (By June 2005 develop RFP, award contracts and begin implementation of pilot projects)</p> <p>KCF II 17.2.1 (incorporated from Braam into KCF II)</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 1(c)(12) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>Develop and implement pilot programs in at least 3 sites providing therapeutic foster care using effective, evidence-based models of care for</p>	<p><b>Complete</b> (as per first Monitoring Report, March 28, 2006)</p>	

Area/Action Step	Status	Comments
children with emotional and behavioral challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop RFP (12/04)</li> <li>• Publish RFP (1/05)</li> <li>• Award contracts (3/05)</li> <li>• Implement pilot programs (6/05)</li> </ul>		

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<b>Mental Health</b>		
<p><b>Improve availability and utilization of regional medical consultants.</b></p> <p>KCF II 16.2.1 (originally 16.1.4)</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 2(c)(1) in Settlement</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify clear roles and responsibilities of regional medical consultants (12/04)</li> <li>• Provide regional medical consultant for each region (.5 FTE/region) (5/05)</li> <li>• Communicate to staff about roles and responsibilities of medical consultants and how to access their services (6/05)</li> <li>• Review utilization history to determine how to increase effectiveness of consultants with lower utilization rates (6/30/06)</li> </ul>	<b>Incomplete</b>	<p>First three substeps are complete (Monitoring Report, March 28, 2006)</p> <p>With respect to last substep, CA has provided basic utilization information. However, there is no indication that these data have been compiled and analyzed to determine how to increase effectiveness of consultants with lower utilization rates.</p>
<p><b>Increase utilization of No Wrong Door Staffings (NWD) to identify needs for family and connect to services and resources.</b></p> <p>KCF II 16.1.5<sup>14</sup></p> <p><b><i>Action Step 2(c)(2) in Settlement</i></b></p>	<b>Removed by mutual consent of all parties</b>	
<p><b>In collaboration with community partners, utilizing CHET or any successor model, CA will identify regional service gaps and create plans to fill gaps through maximizing and developing local resources.</b></p> <p>KCF II 16.1.4 (originally 17.1.2)</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 2(c)(3) in Settlement</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish regional workgroups (12/04)</li> <li>• Workgroups report out recommendations and plans (06/05)</li> <li>• Regional management teams review plans and approve recommendations (9/05)</li> <li>• Begin implementation of approved portions of regional plans (10/05)</li> </ul>	<b>Compliance Plan approved</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)	
<p><b>Implement newly developed agreements with each Regional Support Network.</b></p> <p>KCF II 17.1.4</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 2(c)(4) in Settlement</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOU between CA and Mental Health</li> <li>• Access to care standards</li> <li>• In coordination with regional offices, establish schedule for informational sessions (10/04)</li> <li>• Develop materials for sessions (03/05)</li> <li>• Begin implementation of schedule for informational sessions (05/05)</li> <li>• Conduct informational sessions on agreements in every region with particular focus on foster parents (12/30/05)</li> </ul>	<b>Compliance Plan approved</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)	

<sup>14</sup> Although the Settlement references Section 16.1.5, there is no provision with this number. The correct citation may be 16.2.2.

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p><b>Foster children's mental health will be periodically reassessed by mental health professionals</b></p> <p>KCF II 17.1.7  <b><i>Action Step 2(c)(5) in Settlement</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise policy and procedures to include requirement for periodic re-assessment (3/05) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ CA Management reviews and approves process (6/05)</li> <li>✓ Orient staff to new policy requirement (9/05-12/05)</li> <li>✓ Implement new policy (12/05)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Complete</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	
<p><b>The Department will develop, and encourage juvenile court judges to use, a checklist for each court review to prompt the Court to seek information on whether or not the physical health, mental health, substance abuse, educational, and cultural needs of dependent children are being met.</b></p> <p>KCF II 17.1.8  <b><i>Action Step 2(c)(6) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>Complete draft checklist (09/30/05)  Orient staff to checklist (10/30/05)  Implement field utilization and court review (12/30/05)</p> <hr/> <p>Review utilization of checklist by courts (06/30/07)</p>	<p><b>Complete through the performance period ending 6/30/06.</b>  (Second Monitoring Report, September 20, 2006)</p> <hr/> <p><b>Not yet due</b></p>	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p><b>Goal 3, Outcome 2, Benchmark 4, Action Step 2</b>  <b>Action Step Page 30 Implementation Plan</b></p> <p>The Department will ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• each child who experiences a crisis related to mental health or substance use disorders will have access to crisis intervention services through the 24-hour mental health crisis hotline. 06/30/2006</li> <li>• all foster parents and caregivers are informed about how to access the 24-hour mental health crisis hotline. 06/30/2006</li> <li>• any non-mental health/non-substance use calls will be referred to the foster parent after hours support line. 06/30/2006</li> </ul>	<p><b>Incomplete</b></p>	<p>The Panel acknowledges that there are multiple mental health crisis lines serving counties across the state and will change the first two substeps of the action step to “<i>a</i> 24-hour mental health crisis hotline”, rather than “<i>the</i> 24-hour...”</p> <p>Regarding the second substep, posting a web link to the 24-hour MH crisis line numbers does not ensure that all foster parents and caregivers are informed. The Department needs also to employ other notification strategies, including, at least, a mailing to all foster parents and caregivers, providing the information in pre-service and in-service training, distributing flyers at caregiver conferences, and including the information in materials provided to all new foster parents and caregivers.</p> <p>Regarding the third substep, training only the caregivers about when to use the foster parent after hours support line and when to use the mental health crisis lines is not sufficient. Each MH crisis line must be notified about the availability and purpose of the foster parent after hours support line. The foster parent line phone number should be posted at each MH crisis line location.</p>
<p><b>Goal 3, Outcome 2, Benchmark 4, Action Step 3</b>  <b>Action Step found on Page 31 Implementation Plan</b></p> <p>The Department will provide notice to the child, child’s caregiver, child’s parent (when appropriate), tribal representative (when applicable), and child’s representative of their right to request an administrative review of any denial or undue delay of an assessment or a service 06/30/2006</p>	<p><b>Incomplete</b></p>	<p>The Panel has several concerns:  - the Department’s submission provides information only on procedures for reviews for</p>

		<p>denials of Regional Support Network (RSN)-contracted services. The Department should also have procedures, forms, and timelines in place to notify the parties listed of the right to request an administrative review for denials or delays of mental health services provided to foster children by Children's Administration contractors or other non-RSN providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The action step requires notice to multiple people (child, caregiver, parent, tribal representative, child's representative). The Department needs to address how notice of the right to review is provided to individuals beyond a Medicaid enrollee or the enrollee's legal guardian.</li> <li>- The action step requires notice when there is a <u>denial or an undue delay</u>. The Department should clarify how it will provide notice and reviews for delays in service.</li> <li>- A step-down in the level of foster care is essentially a denial of a higher level of service. The Department should provide information on how caregivers, parents and others listed are notified of their right to request a review of a step down and what procedures are in place for such reviews.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 3, Outcome 3, Benchmark 1, Action Step 1</b>  <b>Action Step found on Page 31 Implementation Plan</b></p> <p>The Department will develop a process to assess services and outcomes for children from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department and Plaintiffs recommend to panel the services and outcomes to track (by region) (6/30/06)</li> <li>• Panel reviews tracking plan (9/30/06)</li> <li>• CA begins tracking (12/30/06)</li> <li>• First tracking report completed (12/30/07)</li> <li>• Panel reviews first report and sets baselines and benchmarks for each</li> </ul>	<b>Incomplete</b>	<p>First substep was due 6/30/06; documentation not submitted</p>



ethnic minority group (3/30/08) • Dissemination of report statewide (6/30/08)		
<b>Goal 3, “Additional Action Steps”, Action Step 6</b> <b>Action Step found on Page 33 of Implementation Plan</b>  Implement Shared Planning Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase utilization of Shared Planning Meetings to identify child and family needs and connect to services and resources (6/30/06)</li> </ul>	<b>Complete through the performance period ending 6/30/06.</b> (Second Monitoring Report, September 20, 2006)	
• Review and report on progress to Panel on a semi-annual basis (begin 11/1/06)	Not yet due	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<b>Foster Parent Training and Information</b>		
<p><b>Implement statewide after-hours crisis support line for foster parents and other caregivers</b></p> <p>KCF II 6.2.1 (originally 23.1.3)  <b>Action Step 3(c)(1) in Settlement</b></p> <p>Implement statewide after hours support crisis line for foster parents and caregivers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review current models for after hours support already in existence and develop strategies to take statewide (9/04)</li> <li>Develop program criteria (9/04)</li> <li>Hire and provide training to staff operating the program (11/04)</li> <li>Communicate with staff, caregivers and community partners (12/04)</li> <li>Create and provide “crisis cards” to foster parents (12/04)</li> <li>Implement program (5/05)</li> <li>Initiate quarterly progress reports to the field (9/05)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Complete</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	
<p><b>Develop and implement cross-training between foster parents and staff</b></p> <p>KCF II 22.1.2  <b>Action Step 3(c)(2) in Settlement</b></p> <p>Develop and implement cross-training between foster parents and staff (e.g., teamwork, problem resolution)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop training curriculum (9/04-12/04)</li> <li>Pilot training (1/05-2/05)</li> <li>Provide statewide training to social workers and foster parents (3/05–9/05)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Complete</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p><b>Require written notification to licensed foster parents and relative caregivers and provide support to increase their participation in meetings, staffings and hearings involving planning for children in their care</b></p> <p>KCF II 22.2.2 (originally 22.1.3)  <b>Action Step 3(c)(3) in Settlement</b></p> <p>Require notification to all resource families and provide support to increase participation and provide input in all meetings, staffings (including Child Protection Teams) and hearings involving planning for the children in their care</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish policy workgroup, including Child Protection Teams, to draft recommended policy revisions, including the automated process for notification, the tools for how that notification is to be conducted, and where notification is to be documented. Policy workgroup will further draft the cover letter for the ISSP which specifies date of hearing and definitions of “right to be heard” and “input” (12/04)</li> <li>Work group reports out draft recommendations (3/05)</li> <li>Begin development of an electronic process for tracking notification to foster parents of court hearings (4/05)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves recommendations (4/05)</li> <li>Provide orientation to all resource families and staff (5/05-8/05)</li> <li>Implement policy statewide (9/05)</li> <li>Implement electronic system changes statewide (10/05)</li> <li>Establish baseline for notification compliance and set performance measure (12/05)</li> <li>Initiate six month reports to the field on levels of compliance and participation (6/05)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Compliance Plan approved</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	<p>Complete through (e). Remaining steps to be implemented under Compliance Plan.</p>
<p><b>Implement RFP for providing statewide crisis support and other immediate support for licensed foster parents and relative caregivers</b></p> <p>KCF II 23.1.1 (originally 23.1.2)  <b>Action Step 3(c)(4) in Settlement</b></p> <p>Implement the RFP for providing statewide foster parent support and recruitment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete regional recruitment needs assessments (8/04)</li> <li>Develop recruitment performance expectations for contracts (8/04)</li> <li>Finalize Recruitment and Retention RFP (includes regional, minority, sibling groups, adolescents and children with special needs) (9/04)</li> <li>Issue Recruitment and Retention RFP (9/04)</li> <li>Review and select proposals (11/04)</li> <li>Concurrently develop implementation and communication plans (11/04)</li> <li>Begin implementation of regional/statewide contracted recruitment &amp; retention services contracts (1/05)</li> <li>Orientation of staff and caregivers to regional/statewide contracted support services (first stage implementation) (1/05)</li> <li>Review every six months (7/05)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Refer to 1(c)(1)</b></p>	<p>Decision on proposal to consolidate with 1(c)(1) pending.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p><b>Provide training for licensed foster parents and relative caregivers on policy revisions and engaging families and children</b></p> <p>KCF II 4.2.3 (originally 13.1.1c)  <b>Action Step 3(c)(5) in Settlement</b></p> <p>Develop and provide training for staff, foster parents, community partners and contracted providers on engaging families, relatives and fathers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish planning group to develop training curriculum and training schedule (9/04)</li> <li>Complete development of training curriculum and publish training schedule (12/04)</li> <li>Provide regional based training to contract provider staff (1/05-4/05)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Complete</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	
<p><b>DLR licensors develop and implement annual assessment and development plans for foster parents, and relative caregivers utilizing feedback and input from DCFS workers, foster parents, and relative caregivers</b></p> <p>KCF II 6.2.5 (originally 23.1.6)  <b>Action Step 3(c)(6) in Settlement</b></p> <p>DLR Licensors develop and implement annual assessment and development plans for foster parents, utilizing feedback and input from DCFS workers (Braam Panel added: "foster parents and relative caregivers" to end of sentence).</p> <p>The following benchmarks were subject to 2005 budget request:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workgroup develops evaluation tool and procedures (1/05-3/05)  Establish evaluation schedule and monitoring system (6/05)  Budget appropriations (7/05)  Train licensing staff (7/05)  Orientation for staff and foster parents (8/05)  Begin annual evaluations (9/05)  Complete cycle of evaluations (9/07)  Report annually (9/06, 9/07)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Compliance Plan approved</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	
<p><b>Develop and implement a policy requiring ongoing training for licensed foster parents</b></p> <p>KCF II 40.2.1  <b>Action Step 3(c)(7) in Settlement</b></p> <p>Develop and implement a policy requiring ongoing training for caregivers including engagement training as identified in section 14.3.1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workgroup develops policy recommendations (10/04)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves recommendations (11/04)</li> <li>Adjust learning system data base to track compliance with policy requirements (12/04)</li> <li>Communicate policy to staff and caregivers (12/04)</li> <li>Implement policy (1/05)</li> <li>Initiate quarterly progress reports to the field (6/05)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Compliance Plan approved</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p><b>Licensed foster parents and relative caregivers shall be provided with the results and recommendations of all of the Department's screenings and assessments, including the Pre-Passport or its successor, for children placed in their home five days after its completion, unless expressly limited by law or a child's lawful assertion of confidentiality.</b> Licensed foster parents and relative caregivers shall be provided a copy of the child's passport or its successor at the time of placement but no later than five days after its completion, unless expressly limited by law or a child's lawful assertion of confidentiality.</p> <p>KCF II 16.3.1, 16.3.2  <b><i>Action Step 3(c)(8) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>16.3.1 Provide licensed foster parents and relative caregivers with child's Passport at time of placement or not later than five days after completion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workgroup reviews and revised current policy (1/05)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves policy recommendations (3/05)</li> <li>Orient staff and foster parents to new policy (6/05-9/05)</li> <li>Implement policy (9/05)</li> <li>Evaluate implementation through case review process (1/06)</li> <li>Initiate six month reporting (1/06)</li> </ol> <p>16.3.2 Provide licensed foster parents and relative caregivers with results and recommendations of all screenings/ assessments for children placed in their home within five days of completion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workgroup reviews and revised current policy (1/05)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves policy recommendations (3/05)</li> <li>Orient staff and foster parents to new policy (6/05-9/05)</li> <li>Implement policy (9/05)</li> <li>Evaluate implementation through case review process (1/06)</li> <li>Report out every six months (1/06)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Compliance Plan approved</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p><b>Licensed foster parents and relative caregivers will be encouraged and supported to participate in staffings of pre-passports (or successor) for children placed in their homes.</b></p> <p>KCF II 22.2.2  <b>Action Step 3(c)(9) in Settlement</b></p> <p>Require notification to all resource families and provide support to increase participation and provide input in all meetings, staffings (including Child Protection Teams), and hearings involving planning for the children in their care</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish policy workgroup, including Children's Administrative Technology Services (CATS), to draft recommended policy revisions, including the automated process for notification, the tools for how that notification is to be conducted, and where notification is to be documented. Policy workgroup will further draft the cover letter for the ISSP which specifies date of hearing and definitions of "right to be heard" and "input" (12/04)</li> <li>Work group reports out draft recommendations (3/05)</li> <li>Begin development of an electronic process for tracking notification to foster parents of court hearings (4/05)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves recommendations (4/05)</li> <li>Provide orientation to all resource families and staff (5/05-8/05)</li> <li>Implement policy statewide (9/05)</li> <li>Implement electronic system changes statewide (10/05)</li> <li>Establish baseline for notification compliance and set performance measure (12/05)</li> <li>Initiate six-month reports to the field on levels of compliance and participation (6/05)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Refer to 3(c)(3)</b></p>	<p>Decision on proposal to consolidate with 3(c)(3) pending.</p>
<p><b>Department shall provide appropriate access to respite care for caregivers requesting and needing this service.</b></p> <p>KCF II 23.1.4  <b>Action Step 3(c)(10) in Settlement</b></p> <p>Provide respite to resource families to support placements at risk of disruption and provide appropriate access to respite care for caregivers requesting and needing this service (Refer to 6.1.3 for timelines)</p>	<p><b>Refer to 1 (c) 4</b></p>	<p>Decision on proposal to consolidate with 1(c)(4) pending.</p>
<p><b>The Department shall develop a plan, subject to review and approval of the Panel, for training of unlicensed caregivers.</b></p> <p>KCF II 40.3.2  <b>Action Step 3(c)(11) in Settlement</b></p> <p>Develop a plan, subject to review and approval of the Braam Panel, for training of unlicensed caregivers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish workgroup to develop plan and estimate costs/resources required (1/06)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves plan (5/06)</li> <li>Plan submitted to Braam Panel for review (6/06)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Complete through performance period ending 6/30/06</b></p>	<p>Proposal for Training of Unlicensed Relative Caregivers was submitted to the Panel on time in June 2006. Panel did not approve proposal. Panel will provide additional feedback and Department will revise and resubmit during next performance period.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<b>Unsafe/Inappropriate Placements</b>		
<p><b>Increase contact between social worker and family, child and caregivers to at least once every 30 days</b></p> <p>KCF II 14.1.2 (originally 11.1.2)</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 4(c)(1) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>For children placed in out-of-home care, develop and implement a policy to require 30-day visits between social worker and parents, and social worker and child IN ALL CASES</p> <p>This action step and following benchmarks are subject to 2005 budget request</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilizing policy workgroup from 14.1.1, develop policy recommendations (3/05-5/05)</li> <li>Workgroup reports out recommendations (5/05)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves policy recommendations (6/05)</li> <li>Budget decisions (7/05)</li> <li>Provide orientation to staff, caregivers and community partners on new policy requirement (7/05-9/05)</li> <li>Revise new social worker academy training to support new policy and practice guidelines (9/05)</li> <li>Based on available funding, implement policy changes (10/05)</li> <li>Establish baseline for compliance with policy changes and set performance measure (3/06)</li> <li>Initiate quarterly reporting to the field (6/06)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Compliance Plan not approved by the Panel</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	<p>The following comments were included in the Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006</p> <p>The following changes are necessary in order for the Compliance Plan to be considered acceptable:</p> <p>- <i>Implementation timeline:</i> The phase-in plan for implementation of monthly visits should be revised to coincide with the schedule of office visits for COA accreditation. Monthly visitation is a COA standard, and offices should be in compliance with this expectation at the time of their accreditation site visits and thereafter. This phase-in schedule should replace the schedule by category of children outlined in the proposed Compliance Plan, and should be linked to the schedule for reducing caseload size (Action Step 1(c)(9)).</p> <p>- <i>Definition for monthly visits:</i> The Panel accepts the change in language to "once per month, with not more than 40 days elapsing between individual visits." However, the definition should be revised to require that all children are observed 1) in the home with the caregiver present and 2) in private, separate from the caregiver, either in the home or in another location where the child is comfortable.</p> <p>- <i>Proposed Change to Action Step:</i> The paragraph that begins, "Additional factors which could affect implementation of this Action Step include...." should be deleted.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p><b>Increase compliance with policy requiring workers to visit children in placement within the first week of out-of-home care</b></p> <p>KCF II 14.1.6</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 4(c)(2) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>Review and revise policy requiring social workers to visit all children in their placement within the first week in out-of-home care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish workgroup to review and revise policy (6/05)</li> <li>b. Orient staff to new policy requirement (8/05)</li> <li>c. Begin implementation of new policy (10/05)</li> <li>d. Establish regional baselines and set performance measure (6/06)</li> <li>e. Initiate quarterly reporting to the field (6/06)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Incomplete</b></p>	<p>Department has indicated that it intends to submit additional information. Materials not provided to Panel in time for this report.</p>



Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p><b>A face-to-face safety assessment with a child suspected to be a victim of child abuse or neglect while in the Department's custody shall occur within 24 hours of the report for emergent cases, and within 72 hours of the report for non-emergent cases.</b></p> <p>KCF II 1.1.5-1.1.8 (originally 1.1.4, 1.1.5)  <b><i>Action Step 4(c)(3) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>1.1.5 Require social workers to make face-to-face contact with child victims suspected to be a victim of child abuse or neglect, while in the custody of CA, within 24 hours for referrals of child abuse and/or neglect rated as emergent.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish policy workgroup to develop recommendations regarding policy changes for 24 hour face-to-face contacts on emergent referrals (10/04)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves recommendations (1/05)</li> <li>Communicate policy changes with staff (2/05)</li> <li>Policy becomes effective and is implemented statewide (3/05)</li> <li>Establish baseline for compliance with policy change and set performance measure (6/05)</li> <li>Initiate quarterly progress reports to the field (9/05)</li> </ol> <p>1.1.6 – Require DCFS social workers to make face-to-face contact with child victims within 24 hours for all referrals of child abuse and/or neglect rated as emergent.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish policy workgroup to develop recommendations regarding policy changes for 24 hour face-to-face contacts on emergent referrals (10/04)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves recommendations (1/05)</li> <li>Communicate policy changes with staff (2/05)</li> <li>Policy becomes effective and is implemented statewide (3/05)</li> <li>Establish baseline for compliance with policy change and set performance measure (6/05)</li> <li>Initiate quarterly progress reports to the field (9/05)</li> </ol> <p>1.1.7 Require social workers to make face-to-face contact with child victims suspected to be a victim of child abuse or neglect, while in the custody of CA, within 72 hours for all referrals of child abuse and/or neglect rated as non-emergent.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define expectation and practice guidelines for social workers to make first attempt for face-to-face contact with child victims on cases rated as non-emergent within five days from the date of referral (12/04)</li> <li>Review and report on progress towards compliance with expectation/practice guidelines (3/05)</li> <li>Establish policy workgroup to develop policy for increasing face-to-face contacts to 72 hours for all non-emergent referrals (6/05)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves recommendations (10/05)</li> </ol> <p>The following benchmarks are subject to 2005 budget request:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement policy for increasing face-to-face contact to 72 hours for all non-emergent referrals (12/05)</li> <li>Establish baseline for compliance with policy change and set performance measure (3/06)</li> <li>Initiate quarterly reporting to the field offices, including a review of progress towards achieving the goal (6/06)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Incomplete</b></p>	<p>Complete through 12/31/05, (as per first Monitoring Report, March 28, 2006)</p> <p>Pursuant to the last two substeps, CA provided data on response time for investigations. DLR investigation data have been provided for children in licensed foster homes. However, remaining data do not distinguish between children who are in their own homes and not in the custody of the Department and children who are in placement with unlicensed relative caregivers. CA needs to report separately on children in the class (i.e. those placed with unlicensed relative caregivers) in order for this step to be considered complete.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p><b>Children in the custody of the Department will not be placed in:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutions not designed to receive foster children, such as adult mental hospitals or detox facilities where children and adults are commingled</li> <li>• A foster home without specialized training and support to provide for the safety of children in the home when sexually aggressive or physically assaultive children reside in the home</li> <li>• DSHS offices, including repeated daily stays at DSHS offices</li> </ul> <p><i>Action Step 4(c)(4) in Settlement</i></p>	<p><b>Not yet due per benchmarks in Implementation Plan</b></p>	<p>Baseline data on children in adult mental hospitals has been provided by the Mental Health Division.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<b>Sibling Separation</b>		
<p><b>Increase quality and frequency of visits between children and their siblings.</b></p> <p>KCF II 18.1.1  <b><i>Action Step 5(c)(1) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>Develop policies and protocols regarding visitations for children in foster care to include frequency of visitation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a policy workgroup, including stakeholders and researchers, to develop a framework for visitations between parents and children and siblings that is utilized uniformly across regions. Framework to include guidelines for visitations which encompass: (9/04-12/04) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>When visitations can be unsupervised,</i></li> <li><i>When visitations can be outside of the DCFS office,</i></li> <li><i>When visitations can be outside DCFS office hours, and</i></li> <li><i>Who is able to supervise visits</i></li> <li><i>How the visitation issues will be addressed during the Family Team Decision Making meeting which occurs within 72 hours of a child's placement in out-of-home care.</i></li> <li><i>How the visitation issues will be addressed in other staffings and supervisory conferences</i></li> <li><i>Guidelines for documentation of visits for social workers and contracted service providers</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>Workgroup reports out recommendations (12/04)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves framework and policy recommendations (1/05)</li> <li>Provide training for staff and providers to support policy changes for visitations, quality of visitations and maintaining child's cultural connections (2/05-4/05)</li> <li>Implement policy changes upon training (2/05-4/05)</li> <li>Report out quarterly on progress (6/05-6/07)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Compliance Plan approved</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p><b>Improve kinship support services.</b></p> <p>KCF 8.3.2, 8.3.3, 21.1.1 (originally 8.1.2)</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 5(c)(2) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>8.3.2 Develop and implement caregiver initial assessment policy to support immediate relative placements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workgroup develops initial assessment tool and policy (12/04)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves appropriate recommendations (2/05)</li> <li>Provide training to social workers and supervisors (3/05-5/05)</li> <li>Revise DLR academy training to reflect policy change 5/05 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation statewide (6/05)</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>8.3.3 Implement relative home study</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workgroup develops initial assessment tool and policy (12/04)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves appropriate recommendations (2/05)</li> <li>Provide training to staff (3/05– 5/05)</li> <li>Implementation statewide (6/05)</li> </ol> <p>21.1.1 Develop and implement revised policy framework for kinship care.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish policy workgroup to: (9/04) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop policy providing access to services for non-licensed kinship care providers; and</li> <li>Develop tools (e.g., ancestry chart, genogram) for Kinship care policy, including how it supports Tribal ICWA law requirements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves recommendations (1/05)</li> <li>Make necessary policy changes to support framework. (4/05)</li> <li>Provide training to existing staff on policy framework and tools (05/05)</li> <li>Revise academy curriculum for new social workers to include kinship framework (6/05)</li> <li>Implement policy changes (7/05)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Refer to 1(c)(6)</b></p>	<p>Decision on proposal to consolidate with 1(c)(6) is pending.</p>
<p><b>Hire and train relative search staff to support finding relative resources and supporting Family Team Meetings</b></p> <p>KCF II 8.3.4</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 5(c)(3) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>Hire and train relative search staff to support finding potential relative resources and Family Team Decision Making Meetings by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completing relative/father searches</li> <li>Identifying Tribal/Band affiliation</li> <li>Completing caregivers initial assessment</li> </ul> <p>The following benchmarks are subject to 2005 budget request:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget decisions (7/05)</li> <li>Hire and train relative search staff (10/05)</li> <li>Implement (11/05)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Refer to 1(c)(6)</b></p>	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p><b>Implement case conferences prior to dispositional hearing, as required by 2004 legislation</b></p> <p>KCF II 13.1.6 (originally 13.1.7)  <b>Action Step 5(c)(4) in Settlement</b></p> <p>Implement case conferences prior to dispositional hearing, as required by 2004 legislation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribute interim practice guidelines (9/04)</li> <li>Develop final practice guidelines for staff (10/04)</li> <li>Orient staff, caregivers and community partners to case conference requirements (11/04)</li> <li>Implement final practice guidelines (12/04)</li> <li>Initiate quarterly reporting to the field (1/05)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Complete</b> (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	
<p><b>Develop and implement policies and protocols regarding visitation to children, parents, and siblings</b></p> <p>KCF II 18.1.1 (Note: The first action step in this section also references 18.1.1)  <b>Action Step 5(c)(5) in Settlement</b></p> <p>Develop policies and protocols regarding visitations for children in foster care to include frequency of visitation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a policy workgroup, including stakeholders and researchers, to develop a framework for visitations between parents and children and siblings that is utilized uniformly across regions. Framework to include guidelines for visitations which encompass: (9/04-12/04) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When visitations can be unsupervised,</li> <li>When visitations can be outside of the DCFS office,</li> <li>When visitations can be outside DCFS office hours, and</li> <li>Who is able to supervise visits</li> <li>How the visitation issues will be addressed during the Family Team Decision Making meeting which occurs within 72 hours of a child's placement in out-of-home care.</li> <li>How the visitation issues will be addressed in other staffings and supervisory conferences</li> <li>Guidelines for documentation of visits for social workers and contracted service providers</li> </ul> </li> <li>Workgroup reports out recommendations (12/04)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves framework and policy recommendations (1/05)</li> <li>Provide training for staff and providers to support policy changes for visitations, quality of visitations and maintaining child's cultural connections (2/05-4/05)</li> <li>Implement policy changes upon training (2/05-4/05)</li> <li>Report out quarterly on progress (6/05-6/07)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Refer to 5(c)(1)</b></p>	<p>Decision on proposal to consolidate with 5(c)(1) is pending.</p>
<p><b>Submit and, if approved, implement Title IV-E Demonstration Waiver to develop and deliver kinship supports</b></p> <p>KCF II 38.1.3  <b>Action Step 5(c)(6) in Settlement</b></p>	<p><b>Complete</b> (as per first Monitoring Report, March 28, 2006)</p>	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p><b>Pursuant to plans developed under KCF II, implement strategies to recruit additional licensed foster care and relative caregivers willing and able to accommodate sibling groups</b>  (not specified in implementation Plan)</p> <p>KCF II 24.1.1  <b><i>Action Step 5(c)(7) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>Implement the RFP for providing statewide foster parent support and recruitment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete regional recruitment needs assessments (8/04)</li> <li>Develop recruitment performance expectations for contracts (8/04)</li> <li>Finalize Recruitment and Retention RFP (includes regional, minority, sibling groups, adolescents and children with special needs) (9/04)</li> <li>Issue Recruitment and Retention RFP (9/04)</li> <li>Review and select proposals (11/04)</li> <li>Concurrently develop implementation and communication plans (11/04)</li> <li>Begin implementation of 18 month regional/statewide contracted recruitment and retention services contracts (1/05)</li> <li>Orientation of staff and caregivers to regional/statewide contracted support services (first stage implementation) (1/05)</li> <li>Review every six months (7/05)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Refer to 1(c)(1)</b></p>	<p>Decision on proposal to consolidate with 1 (c) 1 is pending.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<b>Services to Adolescents</b>		
<p><b>Develop an integrated, re-designed service model for adolescents</b></p> <p>KCF II 19.1.1 <i>Action Step 6(c)(1) in Settlement</i></p> <p>In collaboration with other DSHS Administrations and community partners, develop an integrated, re-designed service model for adolescents. This action step and the following benchmarks are subject to 2005 budget request</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workgroup develops recommendations for a redesigned service model for adolescents including budget (9/04-6/05)</li> <li>CA Management review (6/05-8/05)</li> <li>Recommendations and budget proposal reviewed by DSHS Cabinet (8/05)</li> <li>Budget appropriated (9/06)</li> <li>Begin implementation of re-designed service model (11/06)</li> <li>Complete implementation of re-designed service model (8/07)</li> </ol>	<b>Incomplete</b>	<p>Plan for a redesigned service model submitted in 2005 needs to be revised and resubmitted. Panel will provide additional guidance in response to Department's questions in separate discussion or letter.</p>
<p><b>Establish Youth Advisory Group</b></p> <p>KCF II 19.1.7 <i>Action Step 6(c)(8) in Settlement</i></p> <p>Establish Youth Advisory Group</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop model for youth advisory group (12/04)</li> <li>Locate and establish initial youth advisory members (1/05)</li> <li>Train youth advisory group (2/05)</li> <li>Begin youth advisory group meetings (to be conducted regularly) (4/05)</li> </ol>	<b>Complete</b> (as per first Monitoring Report, March 28, 2006)	
<p><b>Establish educational outreach positions to assist children in out-of-home care in meeting K-12 educational objectives and preparing for higher education goals.</b></p> <p>KCF II 15.3.4 (originally 15.1.3) <i>Action Step 6(c)(7) in Settlement</i></p> <p>Work with Washington Education Foundation to obtain funding and implement the Foster Care to College Partnership plan, which includes establishing six regional educational outreach positions, who will serve as liaisons to assist children (16-18 year olds) in out-of-home care in meeting higher education goals.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In collaboration with Washington Education Foundation, complete Foster Care to College Partnership proposal (10/04)</li> <li>Seek 3-year grant funding (10/04-2/05)</li> <li>Based on funding, begin implementation of the Foster Care to College Partnership plan (4/05)</li> <li>Report on implementation (9/05)</li> <li>Annual evaluation report (completed each year of the 3-year grant funding) (6/06, 6/07, 6/08)</li> </ol>	<b>Incomplete</b>	<p>Complete through substep (d) (as per first Monitoring Report, March 28, 2006)</p> <p>The Panel acknowledges the comprehensive planning process underway; however, the Department has not completed item (e) in the action step that requires an annual evaluation report. The Department's submission includes an Implementation Plan, but it is not clear from these materials what elements of the plan have been accomplished. To complete (e), CA must provide a report and evaluation on progress to date.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p><b>Offer caregivers training on educational advocacy skills</b></p> <p>KCF II 15.4.1 (originally 15.1.5)  <b><i>Action Step 6(c)(9) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>Develop and distribute educational brochures and/or information packets in collaboration with the education sector (<i>packets to include basic statewide information including: mandatory reporting information, and program descriptions for CA and schools</i>)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In collaboration with OSPI, develop packet contents (10/04)</li> <li>Consolidate work products developed from HB 1058 workgroups for inclusion in packets (3/05)</li> <li>Customize information to target respective areas (6/05)</li> <li>Revise/draft CA policy to include distribution of material and to clarify roles of youth and caregivers (6/05)</li> <li>Develop plan for distribution of packets to youth, parents, relative caregivers, foster parents, school staff, social workers, and court (9/05)</li> <li>Begin implementation of distribution plan (12/05)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Incomplete</b></p>	<p>All substeps are complete except for (d). Although the “Practice Guide for Educational Advocacy” includes useful guidance for caseworkers, the Panel does not agree that these materials make policy revisions unnecessary. In order for the step to be considered complete, these expectations need to be incorporated into policy as required in substep (d).</p>
<p><b>Develop and implement tutoring and mentoring services, in conjunction with existing community resources, to improve educational outcomes for adolescents in out-of-home care.</b></p> <p>KCF II 15.2.3 (originally 15.1.2)  <b><i>Action Step 6(c)(10) in Settlement</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop roles and responsibilities for educational coordinators (10/05)</li> <li>Hire regional educational coordinators to provide educational advocacy (12/05)</li> <li>Train regional educational coordinators (12/05)</li> <li>Regional coordinators work with community partners to develop regional plans, including existing community resources and tutoring/mentoring programs (9/05)</li> <li>Communicate program to staff, youth, caregivers and community partners (2/06)</li> <li>Implement regional plans (2/06)</li> <li>Initiate quarterly reporting to the field (5/06)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Incomplete</b></p>	<p>Substeps (a)- (c) are complete.</p> <p>With respect to remaining substeps, CA should develop a Compliance Plan providing additional information regarding intention to work with community partners by February 2007 to develop plans to address the gaps in tutoring and mentoring resources (as noted in status update materials).</p>



Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p><b>Offer support services to foster youth until age 21</b></p> <p>Originally KCF II 10.1.1  <b>Action Step 6(c)(2) in Settlement</b></p> <p>In collaboration with community partners, develop policy regarding discharge from care to enable youth to receive service until they are 21, unless they wish to opt out earlier and include policies requiring youth to be involved in a private or public educational, vocational program or employed to meet the criteria to remain in care. This actions step and following benchmarks are subject to 2005 budget request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish workgroup to develop policy and program recommendations and draft proposed legislation recommendations (10/04 – 12/04)</li> <li>b. Submit draft legislation (12/04)</li> <li>c. Management reviews and approves recommendations (1/05 – 3/05)</li> <li>d. Budget appropriations and legislative decisions. (7/05)</li> <li>e. Complete necessary policy changes (and possible WAC changes) (8/05)</li> <li>f. Provide orientation to staff, caregivers, youth and community partners on policy changes (9/05)</li> <li>g. Implement policy and program changes (9/05 – 2/06)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Compliance Plan approved</b>  (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan, September 5, 2006)</p>	
<p><b>Propose statutory change to extend out-of-home care benefits to children through age 21</b></p> <p>Originally KCF II 10.1.1  <b>Action Step 6(c)(3) in Settlement</b></p> <p>In collaboration with community partners, develop policy regarding discharge from care to enable youth to receive service until they are 21, unless they wish to opt out earlier and include policies requiring youth to be involved in a private or public educational, vocational program or employed to meet the criteria to remain in care. This actions step and following benchmarks are subject to 2005 budget request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish workgroup to develop policy and program recommendations and draft proposed legislation recommendations (10/04 – 12/04)</li> <li>b. Submit draft legislation (12/04)</li> <li>c. Management reviews and approves recommendations (1/05 – 3/05)</li> <li>d. Budget appropriations and legislative decisions. (7/05)</li> <li>e. Complete necessary policy changes (and possible WAC changes) (8/05)</li> <li>f. Provide orientation to staff, caregivers, youth and community partners on policy changes (9/05)</li> <li>g. Implement policy and program changes (9/05 – 2/06)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Complete</b> (as per first Monitoring Report, March 28, 2006)</p>	
<p><b>Establish post-guardianship support program</b></p> <p>Originally KCF II 21.1.3</p>	<p><b>Compliance Plan approved</b>  (as per Panel Decision on CA Revised Compliance Plan,</p>	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p><b><i>Action Step 6(c)(5) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>Expand support for kinship care providers to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop and implement regional resource centers to provide referrals and facilitate access to services to support post-adoption, permanent kinship families and guardianship providers (Refer to 9.3.1) (12/04)</li> <li>b. Provide crisis and support and other immediate support through implementation of statewide RFP for foster parent support services(Refer to 6.2.7) (01/05)</li> <li>c. Increase access to child specific services through expanded contracted services capacity (subject to budget) (Refer to 11.1.4) (03/06)</li> <li>d. Provide access to pre-service and post-service training provided by the Resource Family Training Institute (Refer to 40.3.1) (5/05)</li> </ul>	<p>September 5, 2006)</p>	
<p><b>Develop and implement regional resource centers for post-adoption kinship and post-guardianship families</b></p> <p>Originally KCF II 10.3.3, appears to be 21.1.3</p> <p><b><i>Action Step 6(c)(6) in Settlement</i></b></p> <p>Expand support for kinship care providers to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop and implement regional resource centers to provide referrals and facilitate access to services to support post-adoption, permanent kinship families and guardianship providers (Refer to 9.3.1)</li> <li>b. Provide crisis and support and other immediate support through implementation of statewide RFP for foster parent support services(Refer to 6.2.7)</li> <li>c. Increase access to child specific services through expanded contracted services capacity (subject to budget) (Refer to 11.1.4)</li> <li>d. Provide access to pre-service and post-service training provided by the Resource Family Training Institute (Refer to 40.3.1)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Refer to 6(c)(5)</b></p>	<p>Decision on proposal to consolidate with 6(c)(5) pending.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p><b>The Department will review systemic data and literature on methods and supports to caregivers to decrease running away behaviors in adolescents, and develop and implement strategies to decrease runaway behaviors.</b></p> <p>(KFC II 19.3.2) by November 2004.  <b>Action Step 6(c)(11) in Settlement</b></p> <p>Develop and implement strategies to decrease runaway behaviors in adolescents in out-of-home care</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review WA data on nature and frequency of adolescent runaway behavior (10/04)</li> <li>Review systemic data and literature on methods and supports to caregivers to decrease running away behaviors in adolescents (11/04)</li> <li>Develop strategies to decrease runaway behavior (4/05)</li> <li>CA Management reviews and approves specific strategies for piloting (5/05)</li> <li>Pilot selected strategies in at least 2 sites with highest incidence of runaway behavior (9/05)</li> <li>Evaluate pilots (12/05)</li> <li>Review and revise strategies based on evaluation of data (1/06)</li> <li>Begin implementation of strategies statewide (3/06)</li> <li>Complete implementation (3/07)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Complete</b> (Second Monitoring Report, September 20, 2006)</p>	<p>CA requested clarification on continued viability of this action step. Panel notes that literature review was submitted by CA on 1/31/06. Statewide implementation has been accomplished without pilots.</p>
<p><b>Complete implementation plan for 2003 legislation to increase educational stability of foster children (HB 1058).</b> Complete and implement agreements with school districts, addressing transportation issues for children transferring schools upon placement or move between placements.</p> <p>KCF II 15.3.1, 15.3.2, 15.3.3 (originally 15.1.4)  <b>Action Step 1(c)(5) in Settlement</b></p> <p>15.3.1 In collaboration with partners, develop interagency working agreements between OSPI and CA to include protocols for effective information sharing and service planning for children in care</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statewide MOU between OSPI and CA signed (07/04)</li> <li>Conduct statewide summit to bring together regions with local school districts to get acquainted, build awareness, plan for regional meetings, and outline steps that will lead to a MOU between DCFS and local school districts (10/04)</li> <li>Each region completes agreements with 3-6 local school districts and report to HQ including basic elements of statewide MOU and address specifics such as transportation issues for children changing placements or transferring to other schools (7/05)</li> <li>Complete protocols with 30% of school districts within two years (7/06)</li> </ol> <p>15.3.2 In collaboration with OSPI and local schools conduct regional Educational Achievement Summits</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional representatives attend statewide summit and regional breakout groups begin to plan region summits</li> </ol>	<p><b>Complete through performance period ending 6/30/06</b></p>	<p>Panel has outstanding concerns on section of Action Step related to regional educational achievement summits. Panel has requested additional documentation regarding these summits.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>(10/04)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Regions develop collaborative planning workgroups with local districts (6/05)</li> <li>c. Develop training and communication plan for staff in region and local school districts (9/05)</li> </ul> <p>15.3.3 Implement regional and statewide information and referral liaisons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Regions identify Education leads (10/04)</li> <li>b. Provide regional and/or office contacts in local agreements (12/04)</li> <li>c. Establish protocols in local agreements (6/05)</li> <li>d. Communicate with staff regarding identified contracts and local agreements (6/05)</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Goal 2, Outcome 1, Benchmark 1, Action Step1</b></p> <p><b>Action found on Page 65 Implementation Plan</b></p> <p>DCFS will request the school records of all school age children immediately upon the child entering care (or changing placements, if the placement change requires a change in schools). June 1, 2006</p>	<p><b>Complete</b> (Second Monitoring Report, September 20, 2006)</p>	<p>Panel may consider adding a benchmark/ outcome to assess ongoing implementation of policy.</p>
<p><b>Goal 2, Outcome 3, Action Step 1</b></p> <p><b>Action Step found on Page 67 Implementation Plan</b></p> <p>The CA will replicate the 2001 WSIPP study <i>Educational Attainment of Foster Youth: Achievement of Graduation Outcomes for Children in State Care</i> for school-age children in foster care three months or longer in FY2005, with inclusion of WASL performance for 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades and all other variables in the study. The study may be done by CA following the methods used in the 2001 study, or contracted to WSIPP or another research organization. The study will be replicated every two years over the Settlement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan to Panel regarding intent to perform work within DSHS or contract (6/1/06)</li> <li>• First study completed (11/1/08)</li> <li>• Follow-up studies (11/1/08, 12/1/10)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Incomplete</b></p>	<p>First sub-step was due 6/1/06. No information submitted.</p>
<p><b>Goal 3, Outcome 3, Benchmark 1, Action Step 1</b></p> <p><b>Action Step found on Page 73 Implementation Plan</b></p> <p>The Department shall follow procedures for children who are missing in care that are set forth in DSHS practices and procedure manual #2580. The policy shall be revised to include the following parameters: the social worker shall convene a meeting within three days of the child being reported missing with the purpose of strategizing the most effective means of locating the child and returning them to care. The meeting shall consist of the social worker and supervisor, and persons who know, care about, and may be able to help locate the child; this meeting shall be documented in the file. Weekly meetings are to be held by the social worker and supervisor regarding efforts to help locate the child; these meetings shall also be</p>	<p><b>Complete</b> (Second Monitoring Report, September 20, 2006)</p>	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
documented. June 2006		
<b>Goal 3, Outcome 3, Benchmark 1, Action Step 2</b> <b>Action Step found on Page 73 Implementation Plan</b> The Department shall establish a toll free safe line that can be accessed by every child who runs from care. December 31, 2006	<b>Complete</b> (Second Monitoring Report, September 20, 2006)	
<b>Goal 3, Outcome 3, Action Step 5</b> <b>Action Step found on Page 74 Implementation Plan</b> The Department will review policies and approaches recommended by national organizations such as the Child Welfare League and the National Center on Missing and Exploited Children regarding cross-system collaboration with law enforcement representatives concerning children missing from care. <i>June 1, 2006</i>	<b>Incomplete</b>	Due on June 1, 2006. No information provided.

## **PART II: STATUS REPORT ON BASELINE DATA FOR OUTCOMES/ BENCHMARKS**

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Materials in this section provide measurement data as required under the Implementation Plan.

For each area of the Settlement Agreement (e.g. Placement Stability, Mental Health, etc.), an overview of available data is provided and baseline reports are referenced. Baseline reports are under review by the Panel, and no interpretation of the data is presented at this time.

Two related appendices provide additional detail:

- *Children's Administration Braam Benchmark Development* summarizes which data measures are currently available, as well as explanations of how data are being obtained and when reports will be provided for measures for which baseline data are not yet available.
- *Braam Benchmark Baseline Report* provides baselines and reports in all areas in which they are available.

## PLACEMENT STABILITY- STATUS REPORT ON BASELINE DATA

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As noted in the appendix “Children’s Administration Braam Benchmark Development,” the Implementation Plan established six outcomes/ benchmarks in the area of the placement stability. Data is available as follows:

- 4 benchmarks: Reports are attached.
- 2 benchmarks- Data are being examined through the case review process; baseline data will be included in the February 2007 Monitoring Report.

The following four reports for which data are available are found in the appendix “Braam Benchmark Baseline Report”:

- *Area 1, Goal 1, Outcome 1, Benchmark 1:* Baseline for the number of licensed relative and non-relative beds in active foster homes by region and for the state as a whole.
- *Area 1, Goal 1, Outcome 2, Benchmark 1:* Baseline for the pool of non-relative caregivers who reflect the racial/ ethnic diversity of children in the state for whom foster homes are needed. *Because of challenges with data regarding race/ ethnicity of caregivers, this report is for descriptive purposes only and will not be considered a baseline for the purpose of measure progress toward a benchmark.*
- *Area 1, Goal 1, Outcome 3, Benchmark 1:* Baseline for the average number of years that licensed caregiver homes providing family foster care are active.
- *Area 1, Goal 1, Outcome 4, Benchmark 1:* Baseline for the percentage of children who have experienced less than 3 placements during their current out-of-home episode of care.

## MENTAL HEALTH- STATUS REPORT ON BASELINE DATA

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As noted in the appendix “Children’s Administration Braam Benchmark Development,” the Implementation Plan established 22 benchmarks in the area of mental health. Data will be available as follows:

- 6 benchmarks- Reports are attached.
- 2 benchmarks- Data are being examined through the case review process and baselines will be available in the February 2007 Monitoring Report.
- 1 benchmark- Data are due in 2007.
- 13 benchmarks- Efforts are underway to develop new data sources, as summarized in the appendix. Baseline data will be available in August 2007 Monitoring Reports. In eight of these areas, the Mental Health Division has recommended alternative approaches to gathering data to the Panel for its consideration.

The following six reports for which data are available are found in the appendix “Braam Benchmark Baseline Report”:

- *Area 2, Goal 1, Outcome 2, Benchmark 1:* Baseline for percentage of children in out-of-home care 30 days or longer with completed and documented Child Health and Education Track (CHET) screens within 30 days of entering care.
- *Area 2, Goal 1, Outcome 2, Benchmark 2:* baseline for percentage of children in out-of-home care with EPSDT exams completed within 30 days of entering care.
- *Area 2, Goal 1, Outcome 2, Benchmark 7:* baseline for percentage of children under age three, identified with concerns about developmental delays in the CHET screening, who are referred to the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) within 2 working days.
- *Area 3, Goal 1, Outcome 1, Benchmark 1:* Baseline for percentage of children entering out-of-home placement who are identified by the CHET screening as needing a comprehensive mental health assessment who receive one within 45 calendar days of entering care.
- *Area 2, Goal 3, Outcome 1, Benchmark 5:* Baseline for percentage of children in out-of-home care who are be screened for mental health needs every 12 months.
- *Area 2, Goal 3, Outcome 2, Benchmark 1:* Baseline for percentage of children who receive recommended services from a qualified mental health service provider within 30 days of the completion of an assessment recommending services.



## **FOSTER PARENT TRAINING AND INFORMATION- STATUS REPORT ON BASELINE DATA**

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As noted in the appendix “Children’s Administration Braam Benchmark Development,” the Implementation Plan established 5 benchmarks in the area of foster parent training and information. Data will be available as follows:

- 4 benchmarks- Data will be collected through the foster parent survey and baselines will be available in the August 2007 Monitoring Report.
- 1 benchmark- Report is being revised and baseline data will be available for February 2007 Monitoring Report.

## UNSAFE/ INAPPROPRIATE PLACEMENT- STATUS REPORT ON BASELINE DATA

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As noted in the appendix “Children’s Administration Braam Benchmark Development,” the Implementation Plan established 6 benchmarks in the area of unsafe/ inappropriate placements. Data will be available as follows:

- 2 benchmarks- Data are being examined through the case review process and baselines will be available in the February 2007 Monitoring Report. For one of these benchmarks, additional descriptive data is included in this report.
- 1 benchmark- Data will be collected through the foster parent survey and baselines will be available in the August 2007 Monitoring Report.
- 3 benchmarks require additional data processing and/or development of new data sources. Baseline data will be available in the August 2007 Monitoring Report.

The following report for which data are available is found in the appendix “Braam Benchmark Baseline Report”:

- *Area 4, Goal 2, Outcome 2, Benchmark 1:* Baseline data on percentage of allegations of abuse and neglect of children in out-of-home care that receive a thorough investigation within CA policy timeframes will be collected through the case review process. However, additional descriptive data on the number of abuse and neglect reports for children in out-of-home care, as well as information on care setting, alleged perpetrator, etc., has been included in the attached reports.

## **SIBLING SEPARATION- STATUS REPORT ON BASELINE DATA**

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As noted in the appendix “Children’s Administration Braam Benchmark Development,” the Implementation Plan established 2 benchmarks in the area of sibling separation. Data will be available as follows:

- 1 benchmarks- Report is attached.
- 1 benchmarks- Data are being examined through the case review process and baselines will be available in the February 2007 Monitoring Report.

The following report for which data are available is found in the appendix “Braam Benchmark Baseline Report”:

- *Area 5, Goal 1, Outcome 1, Benchmark 1*: Baseline for the percentage of children placed with any siblings and with all siblings.

## SERVICES TO ADOLESCENTS- STATUS REPORT ON BASELINE DATA

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As noted in the appendix “Children’s Administration Braam Benchmark Development,” the Implementation Plan established 9 benchmarks in the area of sibling separation. Data will be available as follows:

- 3 benchmarks- Reports are attached.
- 1 benchmarks- Data are being examined through the case review process and baselines will be available in the February 2007 Monitoring Report.
- 5 benchmarks- Data are not available and must be obtained by CA and through data sharing with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Baselines will be available in the August 2007 Monitoring Report.

The following three reports for which data are available are found in the appendix “Braam Benchmark Baseline Report”:

- *Area 6, Goal 3, Outcome 1, Benchmark 1*: Baseline for the percentage of children who ran from out-of-home care placements during 2005 and from out-of-home care during their current episode in out-of-home care.
- *Area 6, Goal 3, Outcome 1, Benchmark 2*: Baseline for the percentage of children who run from out-of-home care placements two or more times during their current episode in out-of-home care.
- *Area 6, Goal 3, Outcome 1, Benchmark 3*: Baseline for the average number of days (mean and median) for children who run from out-of-home care placements during their current episode in out-of-home care.